

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01492 050738Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2713

UNCLAS MUSCAT 1492

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MU

SUBJECT: OMANI INTEREST IN U.S. COASTAL FREIGHTERS

1. AN OMANI BUSINESSMAN HAS INFORMED THE EMBASY THAT HE MAY BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING A ONE-THOUSAND TON COASTAL FREIGHTER FOR CARRYING GENERAL CARGO BETWEEN MUSCAT AND BOMBAY, IF COST AND DELIVERY TERMS ARE SUITABLE. SINCE INDIAN AND OTHER NEARBY SHIP-YARDS ARE BOOKED SOLIDLY FOR NEXT TWO YEARS, HE HOPES THAT A US-BUILT SHIP WOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS. BUSINESSMAN (WHO DOES NOT HAVE A DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF SHIPPING) ENVISAGES A VESSEL WITH 8-MAN CREW AND TOP SPEED OF 15-20 NOTS.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: USDOC CHECK WITH US SHIPYARDS ON COST AND AVAILABILITY OF COASTAL FREIGHTERS. IF ANY SHIPYARDS CAN SUPPLY SUCH A VESSEL, PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY DIRECTLY SO THAT WE CAN SUPPLY DETAILS TO BUSINESSMAN.
WOLLE

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